

Brownfields Supplemental Assistance

Brockton, MA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, and safely clean up brownfields to promote their sustainable reuse. Brownfields are abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, with additional funding provided for greenspace), to test assessment models and facilitate coordinated assessment and cleanup efforts at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels; and job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, a cleanup revolving loan fund program (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years) to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Brockton to receive supplemental assistance for its Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot. Brockton (population 92,788) is located in southeastern Massachusetts, approximately 20 miles from Boston. The percentage of Brockton families living in poverty is double the rate of surrounding areas. Shoe and boot-making were once Brockton's most important industries, but factory closings and the movement of middle-income families to outlying areas have left the once thriving downtown business district in decline. During the last 10 years, Brockton has lost approximately 4,200 jobs.

In 1996, the city designated an Economic Corridor running north-south through the center of Brockton along both sides of the Old Colony Railroad. The Corridor contains most of the city's industrially zoned land and is Brockton's last major resource for industrial growth. Brownfields comprise about one-third of the Economic Corridor. The state has designated the area an economic opportunity area, making economic development incentives available to the city. Through Pilot funding and EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessments, the city has conducted assessments on five sites spanning 27 acres in the Economic Corridor.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Brockton, Massachusetts

Date of Award: April 2001

Amount: \$100,000

Profile: The Pilot will target the 45 Emerson Avenue site and an additional property located in the Economic Corridor.

Contacts:

City of Brockton
Office of the City Planner
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Regional Brownfields Team
U.S. EPA - Region 1
(617) 918-1389

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Brockton will use its supplemental assistance grant to expand its efforts to cleanup and redevelop the Economic Corridor, targeting the 45 Emerson Avenue site and an additional property located in this area. The 45 Emerson Avenue site, a 1.5-acre site recently acquired by the city, was used for shoe manufacturing. One of the two buildings on the property was used for manufacturing bulletproof vests and was most recently used as a paint ball facility. The property was foreclosed on last year. Pilot activities have focused primarily on city-owned properties in the Corridor and additional properties the city has assumed through tax foreclosure. The Pilot will continue these activities and also facilitate the cleanup and redevelopment of privately owned properties in the Corridor.

The Pilot plans to:

- Update the brownfield site inventory with recently acquired properties and create an inventory of privately owned sites;
- Conduct environmental assessments on the 45 Emerson Avenue site and an additional site to be determined;
- Conduct community involvement and environmental justice activities focusing on site assessment and reuse options for the two sites; and
- Develop site reuse plans for the two assessed sites (e.g., cleanup options and potential reuses).

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.